



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

children of Mr. Wm. N. Nichols, of Savannah, and others too numerous to mention.

The Mackay mansion at Strathy Hall was destroyed long ago. The only traces remaining of the home are some ancient live oaks which were probably there during the lifetime of Capt. James Mackay, and two pictures of them are given as illustrations of this article.

FORT PULASKI

BY CHARLES H. OLMSTEAD.

The autumn and early winter of 1860 were crowded with startling events as day by day and step by step the country moved toward the great convulsion that awaited it.

Perhaps nothing more profoundly stirred the people of South Carolina and Georgia than the action of Major Robt. Anderson, when on the night of Dec. 26th, 1860, he abandoned his position in Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island and threw his command into Fort Sumter, a fortress dominating the very doorway to Charleston Harbor. The holding of this work by the United States government was absolutely incompatible with the separate independence of South Carolina. It was felt that much as the State might desire a peaceable withdrawal from the Union it would be committed to war by the fact that the entrance to her chief port and commercial metropolis was in possession of another power from which it could be taken only by force of arms. Whatever other events may have assisted in bringing about the war, this one alone would have rendered it certain.

The feeling was intense all over the State, and it was scarcely less so in Georgia whose chief seaport would be blocked in like manner should a garrison be thrown by the United States government into Fort Pulaski, near the mouth of the Savannah River.

The Fort at that time was in charge of a single non-commissioned Ordnance officer, but it was evident that, with free access from the sea, any morning might bring about its occupancy by government troops, and much uneasiness prevailed.

Hon. Joseph E. Brown was then Governor of Georgia, a man of resolute will, fine intellectual powers and intense Southern feeling, a living embodiment, indeed, of the doctrine of States Rights. Colonel Alexander R. Lawton, (so well known throughout the Confederacy afterwards as a Brigadier General under "Stonewall Jackson," and as Quar-

termaster General at Richmond) commanded the 1st Volunteer Regiment of Georgia which consisted of all the infantry companies in Savannah and the Chatham Artillery.

The writer of this paper was Adjutant of the Regiment, and in the forenoon of January 2d, 1861, was summoned to attend the Colonel at his office on Bay street. On reaching the room he found Governor Brown in conference with Col. Lawton; several of the Regimental Captains were present, also Mr. S. Prioleau Hamilton, General Henry R. Jackson, and some other gentlemen whose names have passed from memory. It was an earnest, grave assembly, every one there apparently deeply impressed by the weight and importance of the business in hand. For some of us, probably for the first time, there had come a realizing sense of the possibilities of the immediate future.

The Governor was on the point of leaving the room, and as he reached the door he turned and said in effect, as in repetition of instructions already given, "Colonel, you will take possession of the Fort tomorrow."

Col. Lawton then drew up a rough memorandum of the order he desired to give, and charged the Adjutant with its prompt promulgation. The three companies chosen for the expedition were the Chatham Artillery, Captain Joseph S. Claghorn; Savannah Volunteer Guards, Captain John Screven; and Oglethorpe Light Infantry, Captain Francis S. Bartow, and it may be said in passing that no more representative selection could have been made of the manhood and military spirit of the State.

The remainder of the day was spent in preparation and early on the following morning, January 3rd, 1861, the troops embarked on the little government steamer *Ida*, at the foot of West Broad street, Col. Lawton taking charge of the expedition in person. Great enthusiasm prevailed all over the city, especially in the splendid body of young men who made up this small force, and their brother soldiers in the regiment who were impatiently waiting their turn for similar duty.

How many of these, alas, were to lay down their lives in the titanic struggle that was before the country.

Fifty-six years have passed since that eventful morning and but few of that little band are left, yet to those who are still here it is doubtful whether any memory of those troublous times is more vivid than that of the march over the draw bridge, through the portcullis, to the interior of the Fort. To all of us it was the actual dividing line that separated from peaceful ante-bellum days, the beginning of a new and unknown era in life. There was in every heart a

keen consciousness of this combined with uncertainty for the future and pride for the present at being permitted to take part in the making of history.

Fort Pulaski is situated on Cockspur Island between the north and south channels of the Savannah River, commanding them both. The Fort is an irregular pentagon surrounded by a broad moat. The gorge faces the west and is covered by an earthwork also protected by a moat. Two faces guard the north channel and two the south—these last having also a bearing on Tybee Island from whence the attack was to come later. There was one tier of casemates opening on to the parade by large double doors, and platforms had been arranged for another tier of guns on the ramparts. In the casemates were 20 long naval 32 pdrs. mounted on iron carriages, but there was no other armament. Officers quarters, kitchens, storerooms and magazines are located in the gorge.

It is specially worthy of note that this action of Governor Brown was in reality an act of war against the United States government, for at that time Georgia was yet a State in the Union, the ordinance of Secession not having been adopted by the State convention until January 19th, 1861, sixteen days after the Governor had taken possession of United States property "*Vi et armis*."

From that time on until the establishment of the Confederacy, the Fort was garrisoned by details from the First Regiment under orders from the State.

After the government at Montgomery was in the saddle and a Confederate army in actual existence the 1st Georgia Regulars, Col. Charles J. Williams, furnished a garrison until that regiment was ordered to Virginia, when the 1st Vol. Regiment which was now also in Confederate service, resumed its old post and held it until the bombardment and fall of the Fort in April, 1862.

Meanwhile considerable addition had been made to the armament both in the casemates and on the ramparts; several 10-inch and 8-inch Columbiads, a 42 pdr. and two 24 pdr. Blakely rifled guns and two 10-inch mortars.

Tybee Island, just below Cockspur, between it and the sea, was held as an outpost until the latter part of 1861; a small earth-work was thrown up there and garrisoned by various bodies of Confederate troops though the position was felt to be much exposed and incapable of a stout defense.

On Nov. 7th, 1861, the attack and capture of the forts at Port Royal by a strong United States fleet, with supporting land forces, convinced the authorities of the unwisdom of attempting to hold all the outlying islands of the coast

with the limited forces at command. Accordingly it was decided to dismantle the battery at Tybee Point and to withdraw the garrison which then consisted of the 25th Georgia Regiment, Colonel C. C. Wilson.

Shortly after this withdrawal a fleet of United States vessels anchored in the roads and a force was landed upon the island thus taking the first step toward the investment of Pulaski; a final one was put into execution on February 13th, when a Federal force unexpectedly opened fire, from a battery that had been secretly erected at Venus Point on the Savannah river, upon the little steamer *Ida* as she was making her daily trip down to the Fort. This battery had been put up by a force from Port Royal coming through Wright and Mud rivers on the Carolina side, it was entirely beyond the guns of Pulaski and, indeed, its existence was unknown until it began firing.

The *Ida* escaped injury, and, aided by an unusually high tide, succeeded in returning to Savannah the next morning by way of Lazaretto Creek and Wilmington River; but communication between the Fort and city was permanently cut off excepting for an occasional messenger with mails slipping through the marshes at night.

The garrison of the Fort at that time consisted of four companies of the First Regiment, the Oglethorpe Light Infantry, Co. B, Captain F. W. Sims; Washington Volunteers, Captain John McMahon; Montgomery Guards, Captain L. J. Guilmartin; German Volunteers, Captain John H. Stegin; to which should be added the Wise Guards, Captain M. J. McMullan; a company from middle Georgia, near Oglethorpe, that had gallantly offered itself as a reinforcement when an attack upon the Fort seemed inevitable.

The entire garrison, officers and men, summed up only 385 under Colonel C. H. Olmstead, with Major John Foley of the First Regiment, second in command. The staff was as follows:

Lieut. Matthew H. Hopkins,	Adjutant.
Capt. R. D. Walker,	Commissary.
Captain Robert Erwin,	Quarter Master.
Dr. John T. McFarland,	Surgeon.
Rob't H. Lewis,	Sergt. Major.
W. C. Crawford,	Qr. Master Sergt.
Ed. W. Drummond,	Commissary Sergt.
Edward Hopkins,	Qr. Master's Clerk.
Harvey Lewis,	Ordinance Sergt.

Rev. Peter Whelan served as Volunteer Chaplain to the Montgomery Guards, but he will be remembered as a faithful

comrade and friend to the entire garrison—a man who lived up to the teachings of the Master whom he followed.

Prior to the closing of the river, General Robt. E. Lee, who was then in command of the Military District of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, visited the Fort and gave instructions for further defensive work to be done—traverses to be built on the ramparts between the guns, ditches dug in the parade to catch shells, the light colonnade in front of the officers quarters to be torn down, blindages of heavy timber to be erected before the casemate doors around the entire inner circuit of the Fort, and these to be covered by several feet of earth.

[It is interesting to quote a remark of Gen'l Lee's at this time. Pointing to the nearest part of Tybee Island, 1700 yards away, he said, "Colonel, they will make it very warm for you with shells from that point but they cannot breach at that distance." From 800 to 900 yards was then laid down in the books as the extreme range at which a wall of good masonry could be attacked with any prospect of success, but up to the Seige of Pulaski, so far as the writer knows, no fortification had ever been subjected to the fire of rifled guns. Their power against masonry was yet an unknown quantity. In the following year some of us saw Fort Sumter reduced to ruins at a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 miles.]

Immediately after General Lee's return to the city steps were taken to supply the timber required for the work he had laid out. Rafts were brought down the South Channel and from thence by a small canal on the South side of the island into the moat. The whole garrison was put to work and to such good purpose, with such hearty good will, that everything contemplated was practically completed when the bombardment actually began.

During the month of March signs of activity on the part of the enemy were heard though not seen. Our pickets at the water's edge on the South Channel reported hearing movements during the night over at King's Point, but the morning light revealed nothing to the closest scrutiny. The sand ridge there remained unchanged in its profile, the shrubbery that covered it appeared untouched, save by the breezes from the ocean, while not a living thing was visible at the point from daylight until dark excepting upon one occasion when three men appeared making insulting gestures toward us. They were fired upon by a 32 pdr. and one of them killed.

On the morning of April 10th, just after reveille, Lieut. Frank Blair of the Washington Volunteers reported to the commanding officer that he had observed a change in the

configuration of the ground at the Point. The Summit of the ridge had been leveled, the bushes cut away, and, he thought, guns were visible; moreover he stated that a boat had started to come across to the Fort bearing a flag of truce. Captain F. W. Sims was sent to the South Wharf to meet the officer who carried the flag and who presented a demand for the surrender of the Fort. This was refused, the officer returned to Tybee and shortly after, at a quarter past eight o'clock, the first gun was fired. It was replied to immediately by the Fort and from that time until night-fall the firing continued steadily, without intermission, from either side. Very early in the day however it was seen that the effect upon the fortification was becoming disastrous.

The guns of the enemy were located in eleven different batteries stretching along Tybee beach for a distance of two and a half miles from Lazaretto Creek. Four of these batteries were at King's Point armed with 10-inch rifled guns firing Parrott and James projectiles, three 10-inch and one 8-inch Columbiads, and four 10-inch mortars. Farther along the beach were twelve 13-inch mortars and a few more Columbiads, but the rifled guns and Columbiads at the Point inflicted more damage to the Fort than all the others combined. A shot from one of these struck the wall beneath an embrasure while it was still intact and bulged the bricks on the inside, a significant fact that left little doubt of what the ultimate result would be. That the power of rifled artillery was unknown to the enemy themselves, is shown by the following extract from the report of General Gillmore to his Government. Speaking of the Parrott and James guns he says:

"Had we possessed our present knowledge of their power, previous to the bombardment of Fort Pulaski, the eight weeks of laborious preparation for its reduction, could have been curtailed to one week, as heavy Mortars and Columbiads would have been omitted from the armament of the batteries as unsuitable for breaching at long range."

The greater part of our own guns were on the two sea faces, and of those upon the faces fronting the fire that was breaching our walls nearly all were dismounted before the close of the day.

Just before dark the commander walked around on the edge of the moat to inspect the state of affairs from the outside. It was worse than disheartening, the pan-coupé at the south-east angle was entirely breached while above, on

the rampart, the parapet had been shot away and an 8-inch gun, the muzzle of which was gone, hung tremblingly over the verge. The two adjoining casemates were rapidly approaching the same ruined condition; the moat was nearly filled with masses of broken masonry, as was the interior of the three casemates where the dismantled guns lay like logs among the bricks.

All through the night the firing was kept up by a few guns from Tybee, more, however, with a view to prevent the garrison from sleeping, but with the morning it began with renewed vigor all along the line while, because of the number of guns out of commission, the Confederate fire materially slackened.

During the morning, the breach rapidly became wider and the enemy's shot and shell played freely through it across the parade upon the opposite interior angle where the principal service magazine was located. The entrance to this was protected by a large traverse sufficiently heavy, it was thought, for the purpose designed. Between one and two o'clock in the afternoon, however, a shell passed through the top of this and exploded in the passage way, filling the magazine with smoke and lighting it up with flame.

What prevented a general explosion, who can say? But it was too evident that a second similar escape could not be counted upon. Entirely cut off from any possible chance of reinforcement; the means of replying to the batteries at King's Point reduced almost to nil; and exposed momentarily to the danger of having the entire Fort blown up beneath us—the commander felt that the end had come and most reluctantly the order to display the signal of surrender was given.*

The firing from Tybee ceased at once and a boat brought General Q. A. Gillmore over to the Fort in response to the

*In connection with this account of the danger to the north magazine it will be of interest to note that the magazine at the south-west angle also ran rather a remarkable risk. In addition to the batteries on Tybee Island the enemy had planted a mortar on Long Island some distance above Cockspur, and had likewise placed a rifled Parrott gun upon an old hulk near a small hammock called Decent Island off in the south-west. It was noticed that one of the vacant embrasures in that part of the Fort lay in the direct line from the hulk to an air hole of the magazine and, as an excess of precaution, this embrasure was solidly bricked up. After the fight it was found that a shell had struck squarely in the middle of the new brick work.

signal. He was the Engineer Officer in charge of the attack, a man of great professional ability and destined to be very widely known by his work in Charleston Harbor in the following year.

The terms of surrender were soon arrived at for unhappily the Confederates were not in position to demand much; the Fort and its armament were given up and the garrison, *with this exception*, made prisoners of war—it was explicitly agreed that our sick and wounded should be sent up to Savannah and not treated as prisoners. Gen'l Gillmore assented to this in a pleasant manner that left a friendly impression upon the Confederates. He affixed his signature to the terms of capitulation and the matter was considered closed. The Fort Pulaski garrison was sent on to Governor's Island, New York, the officers being confined in Fort Columbus, the men in Castle Williams.

Some weeks after our arrival such of the sick and wounded as had not died, and whom we supposed were safely at home in Savannah, were brought North, as prisoners. Col. Olmstead at once wrote to Secretary Stanton claiming the carrying out of the written terms. The Secretary responded that the matter was referred to General Gillmore who also wrote saying that he had been sent elsewhere after the fall of Pulaski and had supposed that what he agreed to had been done. To this Col. Olmstead replied that the men certainly had not been released as they were then prisoners on Governor's Island—he also said that he considered it a point of personal honor with General Gillmore that he should use every endeavor to right the wrong. Whether he did so or not the writer does not know—the men were retained and exchanged with the rest of the garrison in the autumn of 1861.

The attack and fall of Fort Pulaski seems a very small event when contrasted with the tremendous struggle now shaking the whole civilized world, but it marked the beginning of a great advance in modern artillery and deserves to be remembered.